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THE AMERICAN LEGION

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FIRING LINE



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AMERICAN CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION, PART III

Readers will recall that the October 15th and November 1st issues of The Firing Line were devoted to reports relative to recent activities of the American Civil Liberties Union, Inc. (ACLU). With national offices located at 170 Fifth Avenue, New York City, this 36 year old organization, together with 19 state affiliates, claims a total membership of about 35,000. Continuing The American Legion's investigation of the ACLU, this issue of The Firing Line studies another phase of its background and current activities. (See ACLU "Civil Liberties", February 1956, page 3 and ACLU 35th Annual Report: "Clearing The Main Channels", 1955, pages 132-134).

DIRECTORS OF ACLU - NATIONAL LEADERSHIP

Based upon a September 1956 letterhead, the following 24 individuals are listed as members of the Board of Directors or National Committee of the American Civil Liberties Union:

BISHOP JAMES C. BAKER, ACLU National Committee member was a 1947 Vice President of the Methodist Federation For Social Action. According to a recent report of the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee, the Methodist Federation For Social Action was formed by the Communist Party as a religious front organization. In 1948, BAKER sponsored the Committee of One Thousand, a "Communist created and controlled front organization"; and was listed as a 1951 initiator and sponsor of the National Committee To Repeal the McCarran Act, another Communist front. (See HUAC, Review of the Methodist Federation For Social Action, 1952, page 82; Committee of One Thousand letterhead, 1948; "Daily Worker", 3-23-51, page 2; Internal Security Subcommittee, "A Handbook For Americans", 1956, page 91 and HUAC, Guide To Subversive Organizations and Publications In The United States, 1951, page 38).

ROGER N. BALDWIN, ACLU National Committee member and Advisor, International Work, has been affiliated with over 15 organizations which have been cited as subversive and Communist according to a report in the February 1, 1955 issue of The Firing Line, page 14. A World War I draft evader, BALDWIN testified before the Special Committee To Investigate Communist Propaganda in the United States in 1930 "which was to the effect that the American Civil Liberties Union upholds the right of aliens or nationals to advocate murder, assassination, and the overthrow of our Government by force and violence." BALDWIN wrote in the Harvard University Year Book of 1935 that he was for "socialism, disarmament and ultimately for abolishing the State itself as an instrument of violence and compulsion. Communism is the goal." (See Special Committee on Un-American Activities, Investigation of Un-American Propaganda Activities In The United States, Volume I, 1938, pages 161, 462 and 533).

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Conference For Peace. (See HUAC, Testimony of Walter S. Steele Regarding Communist Activities In The United States, 1947, page 143; "Daily Worker," 9-22-50, page 5; "New Republic," 9-27-48; and HUAC, Report on the Communist Peace Offensive, 1951, page 147).

REV. FREDERICK MAY ELIOT, another member of the ACLU National Committee, signed an open letter to the President on behalf of the now defunct subversive American Council on Soviet Relations. In 1943, ELIOT signed a statement on behalf of the National Council of American-Soviet Friendship and was listed as a sponsor of the Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee the same year. He also sponsored the Congress of American Soviet Friendship, signed a message on behalf of the National Federation for Constitutional Liberties and was an Editorial Advisor of the now defunct Protestant magazine. According to a 1948 letterhead, ELIOT was listed as a sponsor of the American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born, "one of the oldest auxiliaries of the Communist Party in the United States." (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 369, 487, 941, 1248 and 1455; American Committee For Protection of Foreign Born letterhead, 1948; and HUAC, Guide To Subversive Organizations and Publications in the United States, 1951, page 13).

OSMOND K. FRAENKEL, ACLU General Counsel and member of the Board of Directors has been affiliated with the following subversive organizations: American Student Union; Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder, Film Audiences for Democracy, International Juridical Association; and the National Committee for the Defense of Political Prisoners. Currently, FRAENKEL is Executive Vice-President of the National Lawyers Guild, a "Communist front which is the foremost legal bulwark of the Communist Party, its front organizations and controlled unions." (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 519, 619, 730, 795 and 1176; National Lawyers Guild letterhead, 1956; and HUAC, Guide to Subversive Organizations and Publications in the United States, 1951, page 85).

WALTER F. GELLHORN is a member of the ACLU Board of Directors. According to the testimony of LOUIS F. BUDENZ before the Select Committee to Investigate Tax-Exempt Foundations on December 23, 1952, GELLHORN was identified as a member of the Communist Party. On page 52 of the May 31, 1956 Three-Year Report of The Fund for the Republic, Inc., GELLHORN was listed as having received a "Grant-aid" for "research costs incurred in preparing the 1956 EDWARD DOUGLASS WHITE lectures at Louisiana State University on Administrative restraints on freedom of expression." He was also a former member of the subversive National Lawyers Guild and the National Emergency Conference for Democratic Rights. (See Hearings, Tax-Exempt Foundations, 1952, page 725; and HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 1210 and 1277).

FRANK P. GRAHAM, Vice Chairman of the ACLU National Committee and Chairman of the National Sharecroppers Fund, Inc., has been affiliated with 16 subversive organizations according to the March 8, 1955 issue of The Firing Line, page 30. He was a 1947-1948 Honorary Chairman of the Southern Conference for Human Welfare, a now defunct Communist front which served "the Soviet Union and its subservient Communist Party in the United States." GRAHAM has also supported the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom; American Committee for Protection of Foreign Born; International Labor Defense; National Council of American-Soviet Friendship; and the American League for Peace and Democracy. (See HUAC, Report on Southern Conference for

Human Welfare, 1947, pages 1 and 14; National Sharecroppers Fund Letterhead, 1956; and HUAC, Guide To Subversive Organizations and Publications in the United States, 1951, page 104).

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES, Honorary Chairman of the ACLU Board of Directors has been affiliated with the following subversive organizations; Medical Bureau, American Friends of Spanish Democracy; Russian Reconstruction Farms, Inc.; Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder; Friends of the Soviet Union and the League of American Writers. In 1950 he sponsored the Mid-Century Conference For Peace and in 1953 signed a letter to the President asking amnesty for eleven Communist Party leaders convicted under the Smith Act. (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 380, 472, 619, 758 and 977; HUAC Report on the Communist Peace Offensive, 1951, page 149; and "Daily Worker," 1-15-53, page 8).

B. W. HUEBSCH is the ACLU Treasurer and a member of the Board of Directors. He was listed on page 7 of The American Legion's Report On UNESCO of April 1956, as a former member of the United States National Commission for UNESCO who had been affiliated with "nine organizations cited as subversive by the United States Attorney General or the House Committee on Un-American Activities." According to page 36 of the Report on UNESCO, HUEBSCH has supported the American Committee for Democracy and Intellectual Freedom; American League for Peace and Democracy; Book Union, Inc.; Citizens Committee to Free Earl Browder; Joint Anti-Fascist Refugee Committee and the Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade. In 1950, HUEBSCH sponsored the China Welfare Appeal, Inc., another subversive organization. (See HUAC, Appendix IX, 1944, pages 334, 390, 589, 619, 941 and 1648; and China Welfare Appeal letterhead, 1950).

ROBERT M. HUTCHINS, member of the ACLU National Committee and President of The Fund for the Republic, Inc., needs no introduction to readers of The Firing Line and The American Legion Magazine. In May, 1956, the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in approving Resolution No. 559 (Maryland), stated that "we strongly urge the House Committee on Un-American Activities of the United States Congress to initiate its announced intention of further investigation and hearings on The Fund for the Republic and its activities."

On November 17, 1955, the National Commander of The American Legion stated that "on the basis of our evaluation of the record, the principal direction (of The Fund for the Republic) emanated from DR. ROBERT MAYNARD HUTCHINS, the President of the Fund...DR. HUTCHINS' record (See The Firing Line, 9-15-55, pages 91 and 92) shows a wilful refusal to consider Communism as anything more than a political ideology...the record of DR. HUTCHINS, and the record of The Fund for the Republic under his direction, is replete with evidence that he does not believe Communism is a clear and present danger in this country and that he is more interested in opposing Communism's enemies than in opposing Communism." (See "The Firing Line", 11-15-55, page 123).

JOHN PAUL JONES is a member of the ACLU Board of Directors. JONES has been affiliated with the following organizations which are cited as subversive and Communist by the United States Attorney General or the House Committee on Un-American Activities: Consumers National Federation; International Labor Defense; League for Mutual Aid; National Federation for Constitutional Liberties; People's Institute of Applied Religion; Mid-Century